REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment be entered prior to examination of the application, to place the application in better condition for examination and allowance.

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made to the written description of the specification as illustrated in the attachment hereto titled "Marked-Up Written Description". These amendments merely correct minor grammatical errors. No new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve these proposed amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS

To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made in the claims, as illustrated in the attachment hereto titled "Marked-up Claims."

Claims 1-47 were previously pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, 17, 19-23, 25, 26, 29-31, 34, 36, 37, 41-43, 45 and 47 and added claims 48-87. As a result, claims 1-87 are pending for examination, of which claims 1, 13, 25, 26, 36, 47, 70, 78 and 87are independent.

Independent claims 1, 13, 25, 26, 36 and 47 have been amended as illustrated in the Marked-Up Claims attachment to broaden the scope of these claims, support for which is found throughout the specification. These claims were also amended for clarification, as were claims 4-8, 10-14, 17, 19-23, 25, 26, 29-31, 34, 36, 37, 41-43, 45 and 47. Several of these clarifying amendments were made to make clear the distinction between the term "animal" and the term "species."

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted
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MARKED-UP WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22 as shown.

While the use of electronic animal calling devices that include a pre-recorded library of animals calls provides a number of advantages, applicants have discovered that such systems are limited in their effectiveness. For example, conventional electronic animal calling devices only produce vocal animal sounds and animal-to-animal contact sounds that are produced by contact between two or more animals[,] (e.g., the rattling together of the antlers of two bucks). Applicants have discovered that animals can be more effectively lured to a particular area by producing calls that also mimic what is referred to herein as environmental contact sounds, which refer to sounds made by an animal contacting an inanimate object indigenous to its environment such as, for example, the ground, trees, bushes, shrubs, brush and grass. In addition, conventional electronic animal calling devices, while providing a library of calls, provide limited flexibility to the hunter. In this respect, each call is a relatively lengthy fixed sequence of vocal sounds or animal-to-animal contact sounds, which must be played in its entirety every time it is played. Thus, although the hunter can choose from one of several different call sequences, the hunter has no capability of customizing different calls using particular animal sounds. The term animal sounds is used herein to refer generally to vocal animal sounds, animal-to-animal contact sounds and environmental contact sounds.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 23 as shown.

Alternatively, in another embodiment of the invention, a different type of volume control is employed, wherein the signal 14 output from the SPC251A sound controller maintains a constant amplitude, and signal carrier 46 is connected to ground by a plurality of resistors connected in parallel (not shown). In this embodiment, the audio control unit can include circuitry that produces a resistor on/off signal for each [for each] of the plurality of resistors in response to volume up or down commands received from keypad 30. For example, if three resistors are connected in parallel between the signal carrier 46 and ground, then the audio processing unit can include three resistor on/off signals, one for each resistor. The audio processing unit 40 may be capable of asserting any combination of the three resistor on/off signals in response to a volume control signal received as input signal 8 from the keypad 30. By selectively activating any combination of three resistors, the audio control unit can change the

amplitude of the audio output signal 14 such that the volume of the selected animal sound 62 played by the speaker 60 is changed.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5 as shown.

Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration of one embodiment of a packaging 68 for the system 15. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 3, the system 15 is packaged in two [discreet] discrete housings 70 and 80. The speaker 60 is provided alone within the housing 80 (such that the speaker housing can serve as the housing 80), with the remaining components of the system 15, including the touch pad 30, being associated with a second housing 70. In this respect, the touch pad 30 can be provided on a face 72 of the housing 70, with the remaining components of the system 15 being disposed therein. The components within the housing 70 communicate with the speaker 60 via a communication medium 90. In one embodiment of the present invention, the communication medium 90 is a run of speaker wire having a sufficient length (e.g., sixty feet) to enable the hunter to be undetected by an animal lured toward the speaker 60 in the field. Of course, the present invention is not limited in this respect as other lengths of speaker wire can be employed. In addition, wireless communication techniques alternatively can be employed to communicate between the housings 70 and 80.

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

1. (Once Amended) A method of luring [a member of] an animal [species] to an area in an environment, the method comprising an act of:

(A) playing back a pre-recorded sound that simulates an environmental contact sound made by a species of [the] animal [species] in the environment.

4. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pre-recorded sound played back in the act (A) is a first pre-recorded sound, and wherein the method further includes an act of:

(B) playing back, contemporaneously with the playing back of the first pre-recorded sound, a second pre-recorded sound that is recorded separately from the first pre-recorded sound and that simulates a second sound made by [the animal] a species of animal in the environment.

5. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pre-recorded sound played back in the act (A) is a first pre-recorded sound, and wherein the method further includes an act of:

(B) playing back, contemporaneously with the playing back of the first pre-recorded sound, a second pre-recorded sound that is recorded separately from the first pre-recorded sound and that simulates one of a vocal sound made by [the] a [animal] species of animal and an animal-to-animal contact sound made by members of [the animal] a species of animal in the environment.

6. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the environmental contact sound simulates the sound of a step taken by a member of the [animal] species, and wherein the method further includes an act of repeating the act (A) to simulate a sound of a member of the [animal] species walking.

7. (Once Amended) The method of claim 6, further including an act of varying a volume at which the [non-vocal] environmental contact sound is played back between repetitions to simulate a sound of the member of the [animal] species walking in a particular direction.

8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act (A) includes acts of:

A

providing an audio-recording medium having a plurality of audio messages recorded thereon,

each audio message representing an animal sound, at least one of the plurality of audio messages including the pre-recorded sound that simulates the environmental contact sound made by the [animal] species in the environment;

receiving input from a user that identifies the pre-recorded sound for play-back; and

producing, from the pre-recorded sound, an output sound that simulates the environmental contact sound made by the [animal] species in the environment.

10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the pre-recorded sound played back in the act (A) is a first pre-recorded sound, and wherein the method further comprises acts of:

receiving additional input from a user that identifies a second pre-recorded sound for play-back, the second pre-recorded sound simulating a second sound made by a species of animal in the environment;

combining at least a portion of the first pre-recorded sound with at least a portion of the second pre-recorded sound to produce a combined output sound.

11. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act (A) includes an act of playing back a pre-recorded sound recorded from a sound [sounds] actually made by the [animal] species.

12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act (A) includes an act of playing back a pre-recorded sound recorded from a man-made sound [sounds].

13. (Once Amended) An apparatus for luring [a member of] an animal [species] to an area in an environment, the apparatus comprising:

a recording medium storing a pre-recorded sound that simulates [a non-vocal] an environmental contact sound made by [the] a species of animal [species] in the environment; and

a controller to play back the pre-recorded sound[; and

a speaker to reproduce the pre-recorded sound when the pre-recorded sound is played back].

14. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, further including a speaker to reproduce the pre-recorded sound when the pre-recorded sound is played back and a user interface that enables a user to control the playing back of the pre-recorded sound, wherein the user interface is housed separately and can be disposed remotely from the speaker.

17. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pre-recorded sound is a first pre-recorded sound, wherein the recording medium further stores a second pre-recorded sound that is recorded separately from the first pre-recorded sound and that simulates a second sound made by [the animal] a species of animal in the environment, and wherein the controller can play back the first and second pre-recorded sounds contemporaneously.

19. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, further including a speaker to reproduce the pre-recorded sound when the pre-recorded sound is played back and a volume control that controls a volume at which the speaker reproduces the pre-recorded sound when the pre-recorded sound is played back.

20. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the second pre-recorded sound simulates one of a vocal sound made by [the animal] a species of animal and an animal-to-animal contact sound made by members of [the animal] a species of animal in the environment.

21. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the environmental contact sound simulates the sound of a step taken by a member of the [animal] species, and wherein the controller can repeatedly play back the pre-recorded sound to simulate a sound of a member of the [animal] species walking.

23. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pre-recorded sound is recorded from a sound actually made by the [animal] species.

25. (Once amended) An apparatus for luring [a member of] an animal [species] to an area in an environment, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing a pre-recorded sound that simulates an environmental contact sound made by [the animal] a species of animal in the environment; and

means for playing back the pre-recorded sound[; and

means for reproducing the pre-recorded sound when the pre-recorded sound is played back].

26. (Once Amended) A method of luring [a member of] an animal [species] to an area in an environment, the method comprising an act of:

(A) contemporaneously playing back first and second pre-recorded sounds that were recorded separately[,] and that respectively simulate first and second sounds each made by [the animal] a species of animal in the environment.

29. (Once Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the first pre-recorded sound simulates the sound of a step taken by a member of [the animal] a species of animal, and wherein the method further includes an act of repeating the act (A) to simulate a sound of a member of [the animal] a species of animal walking.

30. (Once Amended) The method of claim 29, further including an act of varying a volume at which the first pre-recorded sound is played back between repetitions to simulate a sound of [the] a member of [the animal] a species of animal walking in a particular direction.

31. (Once Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the act (A) includes acts of:

providing an audio-recording medium having a plurality of audio messages recorded thereon,

each audio message representing an animal sound, a first of the plurality of audio messages including the first pre-recorded sound and a second of the plurality of audio messages including the second pre-recorded sound;

receiving input from a user that identifies the first and second pre-recorded sounds for play-back; and

producing, from the first and second pre-recorded sounds, an output sound that simulates the first and second sounds [made by the animal species in the environment].

34. (Once Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the act (A) includes an act of playing back at least one of the first and second pre-recorded sounds from a recording of a sound actually made by [the animal] a member of a species of animal.

36. (Once Amended) An apparatus for luring [a member of] an animal [species] to an area in an environment, the apparatus comprising:

a recording medium storing first and second pre-recorded sounds that simulate first and second sounds each made by [the animal] a species of animal in the environment; and

a controller to play back the first and second pre-recorded sounds contemporaneously[; and

a speaker to reproduce the first and second pre-recorded sounds when the first and second pre-recorded sounds are played back].

37. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, further including a speaker to reproduce the first and second pre-recorded sounds when the first and second pre-recorded sounds are played back and a user interface that enables a user to control the playing back of the first and second pre-recorded sounds, wherein the user interface is housed separately and can be disposed remotely from the speaker.

41. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, further including a speaker to reproduce the first and second pre-recorded sounds when the first and second pre-recorded sounds are played back and a volume control that controls a volume at which the speaker reproduces the first and second pre-recorded sounds when the first and second pre-recorded sounds are played back.

42. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the first pre-recorded sound simulates an [mixing] environmental contact sound made by [the animal] a species of animal in the environment and the second pre-recorded sound simulates one of a vocal sound made by [the animal] a species of animal and an animal-to-animal contact sound made by members of [the animal] a species of animal in the environment.

43. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the first pre-recorded sound simulates the sound of a step taken by a member of [the animal] a species of animal, and wherein the controller can repeatedly play back the pre-recorded sound to simulate a sound of a member of [the animal] a species of animal walking.

45. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein at least one of the first and second pre-recorded sounds is recorded from a sound actually made by a member of a [the animal] species of animal.

47. (Once Amended) An apparatus for luring [a member of] an animal [species] to an area in an environment, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing first and second pre-recorded sounds that simulate first and second sounds each made by [the animal] a species of animal in the environment; and

means for playing back the first and second pre-recorded sounds contemporaneously[; and

means for reproducing the first and second pre-recorded sounds when the first and second pre-recorded sounds are played back].